(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys on employment and unemployment, unemployment rate on usual status basis has marginally increased from 2.2% to 2.3% during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. This was due to the fact that the pace of growth in labour force at 2.97% per annum exceeded the rate of growth of work force at 2.95% per annum. The increase in labour force is mainly attributed to the fact that working age population grew faster than total population and labour force participation rate increased particularly, among women during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. However, overall employment opportunities on usual status basis during the same period have increased from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459.10 in 2004-05.

(d) and (e) Government has been implementing various employment generation schemes and poverty alleviation programmes of which, some of the important ones are Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) etc. for generating gainful employment opportunities in the country.

Fall in employment opportunity in the agriculture sector

†2130. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge fall in the employment opportunities has been noticed in agriculture sector between 1993-94 to 2004-05;

(b) if so, the number of labourers who could not get employment during this period of almost a decade; and

(c) the reasons for the fall in employment opportunities in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the three most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys on employment and unemployment, employment opportunities on usual status basis have been estimated at 242.46 in 1993-94, 237.56 million in 1999-2000 and 268.57 million in 2004-05 in agriculture sector. Average annual rate of growth of employment in agriculture sector has accelerated to 2.48 percent in 2004-05 over 1999-2000 as compared to a negative growth rate of 0.34 percent in 1999-2000 over 1993-94.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.